

OFFICE OF TENNESSEE

# RECOVERY ACT MANAGEMENT

IDEA Recovery Funds for Services to  
Children and Youth with Disabilities



May 20, 2009

[www.TNRecovery.gov](http://www.TNRecovery.gov)

# Goals of the Recovery Act (ARRA)



- Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs
- Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform
- Ensure transparency, reporting, and accountability
- Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the “funding cliff”

# When to use ARRA funds



- Allowable funds can be used during the 2008-2009 fiscal year
- However – for the purposes of calculating MOE, CEIS and proportionate share – the total amount of recovery funds will be applied for 2009-2010

# Possible Uses of ARRA Funds



- **Assistive Technology Devices**

Obtain state-of-the art assistive technology devices and provide training in their use to enhance access to the general curriculum for students with disabilities.

- **Professional Development**

Provide intensive district-wide professional development for special education and regular education teachers focused on scaling-up, through replication, proven and innovative evidence-based school-wide strategies in reading, math, writing and science, and positive behavioral supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

# Possible Uses of ARRA Funds



- **Data Collection**

Develop or expand capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning.

- **Placement Options**

Expand the availability and range of inclusive placement options for preschoolers with disabilities by developing the capacity of public and private preschool programs to serve these children.

- **Transition Coordinators**

Hire transition coordinators to work with employers in the community to develop job placements for youths with disabilities.



# Possible Uses of ARRA Funds



- **Teacher Distribution**

Improving the equitable distribution of effective teachers within a school system.

- **Extended Learning**

Establish and expand fiscally sustainable extended learning opportunities in schools (such as extended day and extended year programs).

- **Professional Development**

Establish intensive, year long professional development that focuses on training veteran teachers in ways to improve services for students with disabilities within the regular classroom, such as training in RTI (Response to Intervention), autism and other significant disabilities.

# Possible Uses of ARRA Funds



- **Parent Training**

Provide intensive parent training to help parents support their children in meeting the challenges of Tennessee's more rigorous standards.

- **Academic Tools**

Purchasing academic tools to assist students with disabilities with passing achievement/EOC tests.

# Possible Uses of ARRA Funds



- **Mentoring**

Establish a mentorship program to decrease the drop out rate and increase graduation rates.

- **Tutoring**

Provide tutoring programs before, during and after school.

- **Retention of Personnel**

Use funds to prevent the lay-off of special education teachers and related service personnel needed to provide the services outlined in student IEPs.



# Possible Uses of ARRA Funds



- **Gain Expertise**  
Employ experts, consultants or specialists in autism or low incidence disabilities.
- **Create Teams**  
Develop Instructional Consultation Teams to assist students with disabilities.
- **Improve Services**  
Improve services to students in alternative schools (i.e., instructional materials, staffing, etc.)
- **Personnel**  
Hire or retain related services personnel

***If the LEA chooses to use the 50% (Permissive Use of Funds), these suggestions can be used system-wide.***

***If not, these suggestions pertain only to IDEA Part B regulations.***

# Reduction in Maintenance of Effort



- An LEA may be able to reduce the level of state and local expenditures otherwise required by the IDEA LEA maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements.
- Generally, under section 613(a)(2)(C), in any fiscal year that an LEA's IDEA allocation exceeds the amount the LEA received in the previous year, under certain circumstances, the LEA may reduce the level of state and local expenditures by up to 50 percent of the amount of the increase as long as the LEA uses those freed-up local funds for activities that could be supported under the ESEA.

# Reduction in Maintenance of Effort



## ***Permissive Use of Funds Adjustment to Local Effort***

ABC School System FY 2010 Part B allocation: (IDEA and ARRA Funds)	\$600,000
ABC School System FY 2009 Part B allocation:	- <u>\$400,000</u>
Total increase in federal IDEA funding from FY 2009 to FY 2010:	\$200,000
50% of that increase is:	\$100,000

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### ***Calculating the amount available to the system for local effort:***

- Subtract the FY 2009 allocation from the FY 2010 allocation to determine the increase in federal funds (\$200,000).
- Of this increase, the LEA may take 50% (\$100,000) for use as local funds as long as the activities are authorized under ESEA.

# Reduction in Maintenance of Effort



- If an LEA takes advantage of this provision, the required MOE for future years is **reduced**, consistent with the reduction it took, unless the LEA increases the amount of its state and local expenditures on its own.
- LEAs will be expected to collect and report information on the use of the freed-up funds.
- LEAs will be required to report publicly how these funds are expended on a regular basis.

# Compliance with indicators

**Q:** How was compliance with state and federal indicators measured?

**A:** Each LEA was monitored using the 10 indicators. These indicators will be used to determine whether an LEA meets State/Federal requirements for FY 2008 or not.



# Compliance with Indicators

**Q:** What are the 10 indicators?

- 1) Indicator 4 – Suspension/Expulsion
- 2) Indicator 9 – Disproportionality by race/ethnicity
- 3) Indicator 10 – Disproportionality by Disability area
- 4) Indicator 11 – Child Find
- 5) Indicator 12 – Transition from Part C to B
- 6) Indicator 13 – Secondary Transition
- 7) Indicator 15 – Timely Correction of Noncompliance
- 8) Indicator 15a – Noncompliant and Uncorrected A-133 Audit Findings
- 9) Indicator 15b – Uncorrected Noncompliance from other sources (i.e, fiscal monitoring)
- 10) Indicator 20 – Valid, Reliable and Timely data

***Plus any other outstanding audit reports***

# Compliance with Indicators



- You may recall, an letter of determination for FY 2008 was received by your district in December 2008 and addressed indicators 4, 9 and 10.
- However, recent guidance from the U.S. Office of Education indicated that we have to address **all** of the compliance indicators in our letters of determination.

# Letters of Determination



- Each District has been reviewed and a revised letter of determination is being forwarded to you
- You should receive your letter no later than the first of next week.

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